

M MODE AND TWO DIMENSIONAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT OF PATIENTS WITH HOMOGRAFT AORTIC VALVE

W.Tracz, A.Dziatkowiak, P.Podolec, M.Czuma, M.Kostkiewicz  
W.Jarosik

Institute of Cardiology, Cracow

Echocardiography is the best noninvasive method in the detection of aortic valve thickening, calcification and the assessment of cusp mobility.

Echocardiographic M mode and cross sectional examination was performed in 98 pts with implanted fresh homograft aortic valve. The duration of follow-up was 6 month to 9 years. Clinical improvement was observed in 92 % of pts. Clinical data showed a competent aortic valve in 83 patients, 20 pts had no significant hemodynamically diastolic murmur 2 had severe incompetence due to bacterial endocarditis.

Echocardiographic investigations demonstrated long standing normal function of implanted valves. M mode and 2 dimensional recordings of implanted valve visualised pliable leaflet and normal systolic separation of the aortic leaflets in 77 pts. The homograft leaflet thickness in all of the normal valve was 3 mm or less on two dimensional echocardiography. In 16 pts in the long axis and the short axis views thickening of the valve leaflet was observed and in 5 multiple dense echoes with restriction of valve movement was recorded. Six pts with abnormal M mode or two dimensional echocardiographic finding were considered clinically normal. The cross sectional methods shows superiority over M mode when fibrosis and calcification of the leaflet are present.